

**CASCADE COUNTY  
PLANNING BOARD**

12/21/2021

9:00 AM

Zoom Online Video Meeting

**Board Members:** *Dexter Busby, Dan Johnstone, Richard Liebert, Elliot Merja, Bruce Moore, Sara Murphy, and Rob Skawinski.*

**NOTICE:** PURSUANT TO MCA 2-3-212(1), THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING IS IN AUDIO FORM, LOCATED AT CASCADECOUNTYMT.GOV AND THE PLANNING OFFICE. THIS IS A WRITTEN RECORD OF THIS MEETING TO REFLECT ALL THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD. MCA 7-4-2611 (2)(B). TIMESTAMPS ARE INDICATED IN RED, WITHIN EACH AGENDA ITEM BELOW, AND WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE PRECISE LOCATION SHOULD YOU WISH TO REVIEW THE AUDIO SEGMENT.

THESE MINUTES ARE PARAPHRASED AND REFLECT THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND ARE CONSIDERED A DRAFT UNTIL FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE PLANNING BOARD.

**STAFF ATTENDEES:** Carey Ann Haight, Phoebe Marcenek, Alisha Osborne and Charity Yonker.

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Elliot Merja called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM [00:08:34].

2. **ROLL CALL:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Johnstone, Richard Liebert, Elliot Merja (via telecom), and Bruce Moore.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dexter Busby, Sara Murphy, and Rob Skawinski.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

A. Draft Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2021 [00:09:34]

1. **Board Discussion & Decision**

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there are any corrections for those minutes.

**Richard Liebert:** Says he will make a motion to approve the minutes.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is a second.

**Bruce Moore:** Says he will second the motion.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is any further discussion. [None heard]. Mr. Merja calls for a vote.

*All in Favor, motion carries [ 4 – 0 ].*

4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Tentative 2022 Planning Board Meeting Schedule. [00:10:57]**

**Elliot Merja:** Asks what is proposed to us.

**Charity Yonker:** Says the schedule is set for the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM.

**2. Board Discussion [00:11:17]**

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is any discussion about it.

**Richard Liebert:** Says it seems straight-forward.

**Elliot Merja:** Says that he would entertain a motion to approve the meeting times.

**Bruce Moore:** Says he will make a motion.

**Elliot Merja:** Says he is sorry and asks if he heard a motion to approve the meeting times.

**Bruce Moore:** Says yes, he will make a motion to approve.

**Elliot Merja:** Says there is a motion on the table to approve and asks if he hears a second.

**Richard Liebert:** Says he will second the motion to approve the Board's schedule for 2022.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is any further discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Merja calls for a vote.

*All in Favor, motion carries [ 4 – 0].*

**4. BOARD MATTERS [00:12:42]**

**A. Board Member Term Expirations**

**Charity Yonker:** Says Mr. Busby, Mr. Moore and Mr. Johnstone's terms are expiring at the end of the month, and invites them to reapply or if they know other people, they can spread the word.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks how they should go about reapplying.

**Charity Yonker:** Says we have included the Board applications in the packets sent out, or they may contact Bonnie at the Commission Office and she will send an application, and also that it will need to be drop off with Bonnie at the Commission.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks when the Board will be reorganized.

**Charity Yonker:** Says that she has talked to Bonnie and in January she will provide the submitted applications to the Commissioners for their consideration. Sometime in January, hopefully before the next Planning Board meeting, the Commission will take action to elect the members.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks Ms. Yonker what is next on the agenda.

**Charity Yonker:** Says that is it for Board Matters, unless there are other Board Matters for discussion.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is anything else the Board would like to discuss.

**Richard Liebert:** Asks if Ms. Yonker can elaborate on that Gibson Flats fire, as he finds it reprehensible the alleged arsonists did what they did, but perhaps Ms. Yonker can elaborate on

the permitting for one, and two, the townhouses at Foothills development and whether it will be an issue.

**Charity Yonker:** Says she will address the Gibson Flats Fire. The Commissioners have waived the floodplain permit fees and also the zoning permit fees until December 31, 2022, to help in the recovery process. The Commission has arranged to have disposal bins for residents to help with disposal of the debris. She says the next topic is the Foothills Townhomes and says that we have received an appeal from the ZBOA decision approving, I believe, four townhome locations in Foothills that will go to the Commission on appeal, probably in January. We don't have a meeting set in scheduled at the moment.

Ms. Yonker says there was a letter that Mr. Kuether had presented to the ZBOA, but the ZBOA decided not to further that letter to the Planning Board, but there was some discussion of how to treat second dwelling units and if they should be treated differently. So, of course if the Planning Board feels it is necessary, the Planning Board could instruct the Planning Department to look into any issues regarding zoning regulations.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there are any further questions for the Planning Department.

**Richard Liebert:** Says no.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if he is still here [*via telecom*].

**Charity Yonker:** Says yep, he is still here.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is any other business for the Planning Department.

**Richard Liebert:** Says happy holidays, and on a sad note, a Planning Board member from years ago, Tom Lorang, passed away from a stroke and there will be a wake tonight at Holy Spirit Catholic Church and a funeral tomorrow at ten-thirty (10:30 am). He was very involved in the civic side of the community, school board, and community and so forth and had been on the Planning Board and worked with the Conservation District to get the water well put up twenty-one (21) years ago. I don't know if you knew that or not. That's all.

**Elliot Merja:** Says we are losing a lot of good people. If there is no other further business, for the Planning Board or discussion, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Richard Liebert:** Says so moved.

**Charity Yonker:** Asks Mr. Merja if before adjourning, he wants to call for public comment.

**Elliot Merja:** Says that's right. Mr. Merja asks if there are any public comments online or in there.

**Charity Yonker:** Says we do not, we have no one in the audience and no one on Zoom.

**Elliot Merja:** Says he is having trouble hearing and asks for confirmation that there is no other public.

**Charity Yonker:** Says we do not.

**Elliot Merja:** Says okay and that we can entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Richard Liebert:** Says so moved.

**Dan Johnstone:** Says he will second that.

**Elliot Merja:** Asks if there is a second. Says he heard the second and asked if there is any further discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Merja calls for a vote.

*All in Favor, motion carries [ 4 – 0].*

5. Adjournment at 09:20 AM **[19:04]**

These signatures are for the approval of the draft meeting minutes for:

12-21-2021

Elliot Menja  
President/Vice President or  
Chair/Vice-Chair (Print)

Elliot Menja  
Signature

2/23/22  
Date

Charity Yonker  
Planning Staff (Print)

Charity Yonker  
Signature

2/23/22  
Date